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THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS. By *Stanley A. Cook, M.A.*, Ex-Fellow and Lecturer in the Comparative Study of Religions and in Hebrew and Syriac, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. London, A. and C. Black, 1914. Price, 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. Cook is very long-winded, but in spite of dryness and abstractness of style he has written a valuable book. Much thought has evidently gone into it, and its defects are due to a difficult manner of exposition, not to poverty of ideas. This is not an "Introduction" of the type of Jevons's book; it gives no data for the beginner, nor, as one is apt to expect from the title, does it deal chiefly with primitive religion. It is rather the comments of a scholar—Mr. Cook is a recognized authority in his field—on the aims and methods of his study. He has a great deal to say, and much that is extremely good, on the evolution of religion—as is indicated by several chapter headings: Survivals, The Environment and Change, Development and Continuity. "The doctrine of survivals," Mr. Cook says, "is entirely inadequate when it forgets that we are human beings and do not accept beliefs merely because they happen to lie within our reach. The doctrine of survivals, is, in fact, a very handy and cheap explanation of some one else's beliefs and practices—hardly of our own!" Survivals are not simply "left behind," they are subconsciously selected. Mr. Cook warns very wisely against arguing from the part to the whole, against constructing a hypothetical system into which every survival must fit. He warns also against confusing the evolution of beliefs with the evolution of environments, in judging apparent retrogressions. On the critical attitude, on the acceptance of data, Mr. Cook has some excellent observations, and on the historical versus the religious importance of critical revisions. He holds that the present is a time of religious unrest, though like most of us, he cannot point to any definite theology for the future. His conclusion is as follows: "The unbiased student of religions can hardly escape the conviction that the Supreme Power, whom we call God, while enabling man to work out, within limits, his own career, desires the furtherance of those aims and ideals which are for the advance of mankind." η

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Just as we are going to press we receive two additional notes from Dr. W. B. Smith to be inserted in his article as indicated respectively on pages 330 and 337.

Page 330: "For which Rutherford's 'nucleus theory,' apparently required by the facts in the scattering of 'alpha rays' (of helium atoms) in passing through laminae, substitutes a positive electric core, extremely minute, for gold only one trillionth of an inch in diameter, in volume one billionth of the atom itself. It would seem that the negative electron is nearly six thousand million times as large as the positive hydrogen core. For Thomson's later views see *Philos. Mag.*, 1913, p. 892."

Page 337: "Why do the members fall together to the center as their energies are dissipated in electric radiation? Bohr (*Philos. Mag.*, 1913, pp. 1, 476, 854) invokes Planck's 'Quantum'-hypothesis in solving this riddle."